

PERSPECTIVES OF FORMER WATER BOARD MEMBERS



H. David Nahai

H. David Nahai is the Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), the largest municipal utility in the United States. In this capacity, Nahai oversees more than 8,500 employees and an annual budget of more than \$4.2 billion.

Mr. Nahai was nominated as LADWP's general manager and CEO by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and confirmed by the City Council on December 5, 2007. He has the distinction of serving on the LADWP Board of Commissioners prior to becoming the Department's CEO and General Manager. He was first appointed to the Board in 2005 and elected its president in 2006.

Since his appointment to the Board and subsequently as CEO and General Manager, Mr. Nahai has led the beginning of an overall transformation of the LADWP that includes successfully securing funding to make essential water and power infrastructure improvements, initiating and implementing the City's far-reaching Water Supply Action Plan to secure a sustainable water supply, aggressively raising the Department's green energy profile, and ushering in a number of other green initiatives. Under his leadership, the LADWP has increased its renewable energy portfolio from 3 percent in 2005 to over 11 percent by the end of 2008, and the Department is on track to reach its aggressive goal of 20 percent renewables by 2010 and 35 percent by 2020. Additionally, Mr. Nahai has overseen the creation of the Los Angeles Solar Plan, the most ambitious solar program of any municipal utility in the U.S.

Mr. Nahai is widely recognized throughout California as a leading expert in water issues. He served for over 10 years on the state's Regional Water Quality Control Board, safeguarding the quality of surface, ground and coastal waters while covering a jurisdiction of 11 million residents in Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

At the Water Quality Board, Mr. Nahai served under both Democratic and Republican administrations. He was first appointed by Governor Pete Wilson, then re-appointed by both Governor Gray Davis and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Mr. Nahai was elected by his peers to an unprecedented four terms as Chairman of the Board in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2006.

During Mr. Nahai's tenure as Chairman, the Regional Board was awarded the Environmental Leadership Award by Keep California Beautiful, in recognition of the Regional Board's work in the area of urban run-off pollution. More recently, the UCLA Institute of the Environment awarded the Regional Board an "A" grade for its efforts in this area.

He resigned from that Board in 2007, shortly after accepting the CEO and general manager position at LADWP.

Mr. Nahai has been the recipient of numerous awards and commendations. In 2003, he received the Environmental Champion Award from the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters. He has been twice honored for community leadership. In 2008, he was honored by Heal the Bay.

Mr. Nahai is Vice President of the Board of the California League of Conservation Voters, and sits on the Boards of numerous charities, including the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles, the Iranian American Jewish Federation, the Jewish Community Foundation, the B'nai Zion Foundation, and the Magbit Foundation.

Mr. Nahai began his career in the private sector as an attorney close to three decades ago, and became a partner at some of the nation's largest and most respected law firms. In 1992, Mr. Nahai formed Nahai Law Corporation, a Century City law firm, specializing in real estate, corporate, environmental and commercial law. He divested his interest in the firm on October 31, 2007.

Mr. Nahai holds graduate and post-graduate degrees in law from the London School of Economics and the University of California at Berkeley, and was a Visiting Scholar at Berkeley.